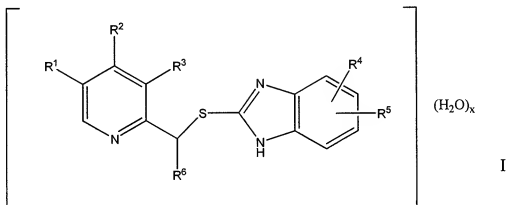


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A crystal of optionally substituted 2-(2-pyridinyl) methylthio-1H-benzimidazole hydrate of the following structural formula I



in which

R¹, R² and R³, identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C8 alkyl, C3-C8 cycloalkyl, C2-C8 fluoroalkyl or C1-C8 alkoxy moiety,

R⁴ and R⁵, identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C8 alkyl, C3-C8 cycloalkyl, CH₂-C3-C8 cycloalkyl, C1-C8 alkoxycarbonyl, C1-C8 alkoxy, C1-C8 fluoroalkoxy, CF₃-, C2-C8 fluoroalkyl or C(O)O-C1-C8 alkyl moiety and

R⁶ denotes hydrogen or a C1-C2 alkyl moiety and

x means 0.5-2.

2. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 1, in which
 R^1 , R^2 and R^3 , identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C3 alkyl or C1-C3 alkoxy moiety,
 R^4 and R^5 , identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C3 alkoxy, C1-C3 fluoroalkoxy moiety and
 R^6 denotes hydrogen and x means 0.5-2.
3. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 1, in which R^1 denotes a methyl group, R^2 a methoxy group, R^3 a methyl group, R^4 hydrogen, R^5 a methoxy group in position 5 and R^6 hydrogen and x means 0.5-2.
4. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 1, in which R^1 denotes hydrogen, R^2 and R^3 in each case denote a methoxy group, R^4 denotes hydrogen, R^5 a difluoromethoxy group in position 5 and R^6 hydrogen and x means 0.5-2.
- 5.-16. (Canceled)